

Springfield Fire Department Annual Report

2014



Commission on
Fire Accreditation
International

The SFD is accredited through CPSE/CFAI

SFD
CITY OF
Springfield FIRE



Message from the Chief

FIRE CHIEF DAVID A. HALL

During 2014, the Department continued to work tirelessly to prevent tragedies. We know prevention is the only sustainable model. However, those efforts cannot be done in a vacuum, so the Department continues to work to provide high-quality emergency responses.

This year was historic in that the City's first ever Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) was reached with the IAFF Local 152. After a nearly year-long process, the two sides were able to work through the issues affecting the Department and its employees to come up with a three-year agreement that promotes harmony in the workforce.

The Department was also reaccruited through the Center for Public Safety Excellence for

another five years. The accreditation process is a rigorous peer-review process that looks under the hood at every aspect of the organization and verifies that the Department is performing to the levels communicated to the citizens as well as industry best practices.

The process of accreditation helps a fire department analyze data, identify gaps, and institute procedural changes to reduce the time it takes to get firefighters on the scene.

I hope you take a few moments to look at some of the most critical performance indicators and a review of the Department's activities over the past year.

Springfield's first bucket brigade was formed in 1867 following a large fire on the public square. The rounded bottom on fire buckets allowed them to automatically tip to the side and start filling when placed in the water. It also prevented one from setting it down, which would defeat the purpose of having the bucket at the fire.



Pictured on cover L-R:

Rescue Specialist Jay Lisenby,
Battalion Chief Kevin Trogdon,
Training Captain Olan Morelan,
Lt. Jason Williams and
Firefighter Jeff Butler

Members not shown are:

Truck Captain Daron Evans,
Equipment Operator Aaron Roy,
Rescue Specialist Lonnie Stockdale,
Equipment Operator Jubal Hicks,
Firefighters Chad Bright,
Scott Guccione and Ryan Zinter

Honor Guard

In 1992, the original Springfield Fire Department Honor Guard was founded with 8 members. The last of the active original members have moved on, and now the Honor Guard has an authorized strength of up to 12 personnel.

The Honor Guard's mission is to honor Fire Service members, past and present, the Springfield Fire Department, and the United States of America with the highest degree of professionalism, loyalty and dignity possible. Members of the Guard must display exceptional pride, dedication and commitment to the City of Springfield, the Fire Department and the firefighting profession. Events occur throughout the year, often at the worst possible time. The Honor Guard meets and trains multiple times throughout the year. The Guard exists to provide service to others. Sometimes that means raising the flag for our nation and sometimes it is to pay respect to, and offer support for, the family of a fallen brother or sister in their time of need.

In 1897, the volunteer fire department was officially changed to a paid department.

Timeline gallery



Division Highlights: Operations

OPERATIONS – Chief David Pennington

The Department continues to see a climb in the demand for its services, responding to just over 15,000 incidents this year. There has been an 18% increase in structure fires over the past five years and an increase of just over 8.5% in total calls for service in the past three years. Over the past ten years, the department has reduced the types of incidents to which it responds in order to maintain a manageable workload. These changes have included the elimination of responses to non-injury motor vehicle accidents, the elimination of responses to non-emergency EMS incidents, and then further reducing those responses to only include those where the chief complaint is one of ten most life threatening issues. With these limited incident types still rising, the Department is fast approaching the peak levels once again.



The Department has increased its focus on interacting with the community in an effort to increase prevention efforts and to build relationships within the neighborhoods by implementing the "Neighborhoods Program", a community-based outreach between the Fire Department and the Neighborhood Associations.

Over the years, only a fraction of the children in our community received fire safety education. That changed this year. For the first time, fire crews provided life safety training to children in every Springfield elementary school.

The Fire Department received a significant extension to the SAFER grant which allows for recovery of unused federal funds for salaries.



Every message was specific to the child's grade. During Fire Prevention month alone, we visited more than 9,000 students to give them the foundational information for a lifetime.



Each year we continue to help make hundreds of lives safer, thanks to the installation of free smoke alarms to citizens in our community. During the year, the Department partnered with the American Red Cross to install smoke alarms in those areas most at risk. This supports the Department's on-going smoke alarm campaign designed to ensure that every home has a working smoke alarm. We recognize this is the most effective means to reduce fire deaths in our community.

The Fire Department has installed 4,991 smoke alarms in the past five years.



Division Highlights: Prevention

FIRE PREVENTION – Chief Randy Villines

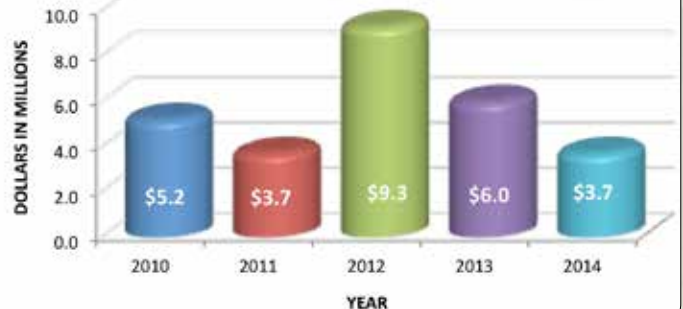
The Department continued its push to get citizens trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

We know that the Fire Department saves more lives through CPR and the use of AEDs than any other activity. By training citizens on what to do in cases of cardiac arrest prior to our arrival, we know we can save many more lives.

The Department worked with the Community Partnership of the Ozarks to develop the Safe and Sanitary Homes program. This program works to alleviate hoarding and unsanitary living conditions which put these citizens, their neighbors, and emergency responders at risk. Many in the community do not realize the magnitude of the problem. This program has already been successful in chipping away at this gap in our community's safety.



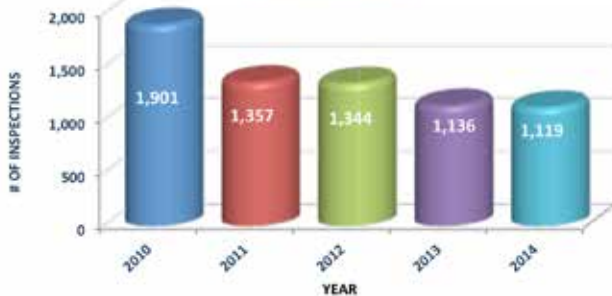
DOLLAR VALUE of PROPERTY LOSS



During the year, the Department worked closely with the tent industry to propose appropriate standards for securing tents to reduce the probability of a serious collapse occurring. New regulations were developed that require those that lease and install tents to be properly trained. These proposed regulations would also require the installer to pull the installation permit and provide specifications to which tents must be erected.

The Department also made a forward push to reduce overcrowding. This has been particularly problematic in nightclubs and some downtown loft apartments. An online training program was launched for bar and nightclub employees. Fire Marshals met with nightclub owners prior to major events to conduct inspections and to make sure the clubs were thinking about safety. Fire Marshals were also sent out to conduct random and complaint based checks, which at times found serious overcrowding resulting in citations.

INSPECTIONS



The Springfield Fire Department has hung over 10,000 door hangers in apartments over the past three years in an effort to reduce fires. Since that time, the city has not experienced a significant apartment fire caused by accidental or careless acts.



1920



1930

Division Highlights: Training

TRAINING – Chief Andy Woody

The Department has continued its recruitment efforts to attract a wider applicant pool. The Department has been very fortunate in attracting high-quality candidates to fill its positions. However, we also recognize that there are many more high-quality candidates that we are not reaching. One of our strategic goals is to ensure we provide our citizens with the highest quality workforce.

The Department continues to encourage professionalism at all levels by ensuring every employee meets the national certification that is appropriate for their rank. Few, if any, fire departments of our size have been able to accomplish this. For example, our Fire and Life Safety Educator is one of very few in the entire country to obtain the Educator III



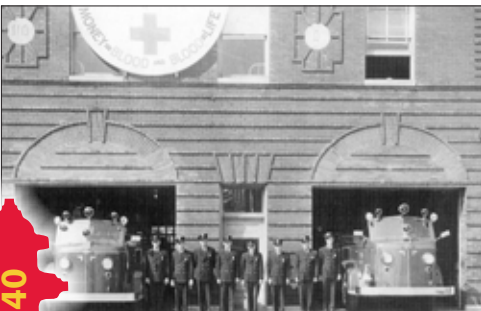
certification. In addition, many of our personnel have met professional credentialing designations through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

// This event gave me the confidence to apply for one the best Fire Departments around! Thanks! //
–Girls on Fire Participant



Women from across the Ozarks attended the “Girls on Fire” recruitment event October 18, 2014 hosted by the Springfield Fire Department at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center. The goal of the day-long event was to encourage women to explore firefighting as a career option.

Women participated in a variety of hands-on activities throughout the day. They learned what’s involved in the Springfield Fire Department’s physical agility test, got interview and resume advice, and learned firefighter fitness programs.



Response Times

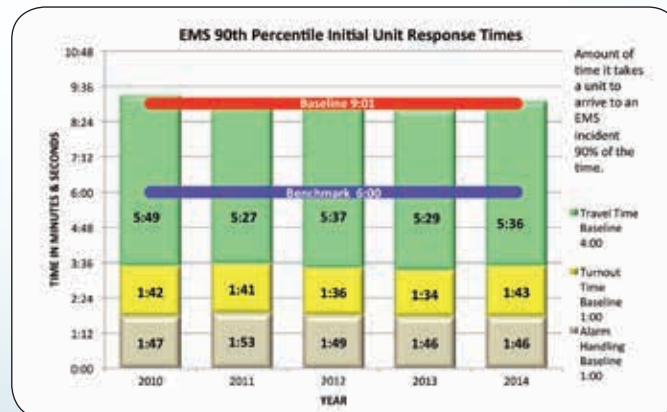
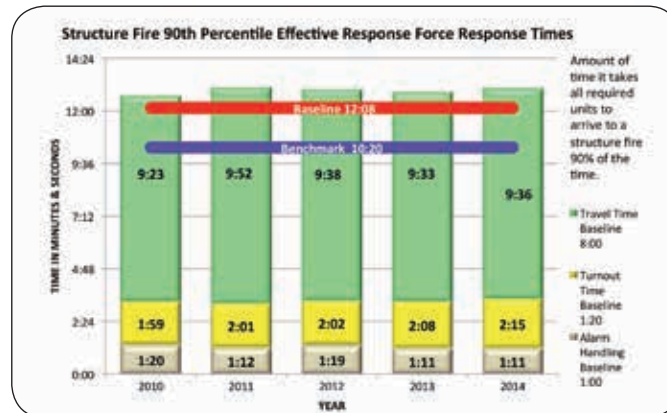
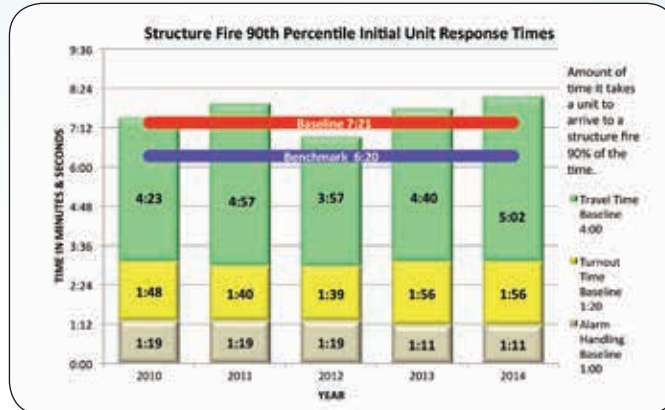
These graphs are the foundation for evaluating how quickly the Fire Department responds to requests for service. Each graph shows how long it takes for us to reach 90% of the calls.

The first graph looks at how long it took the **first fire unit** to arrive at a **fire** 9 out of 10 times.

However, many fires require more than one fire unit in order to be able to extinguish it, so the second graph looks at how long it took **all of the fire units** to arrive at a **fire** 9 out of 10 times.

The last graph shows how long it took the **first fire unit** to arrive to a **medical emergency** 9 out of 10 times.

Each graph also shows the baseline performance goal established by the Department as well as the nationally recognized benchmark.

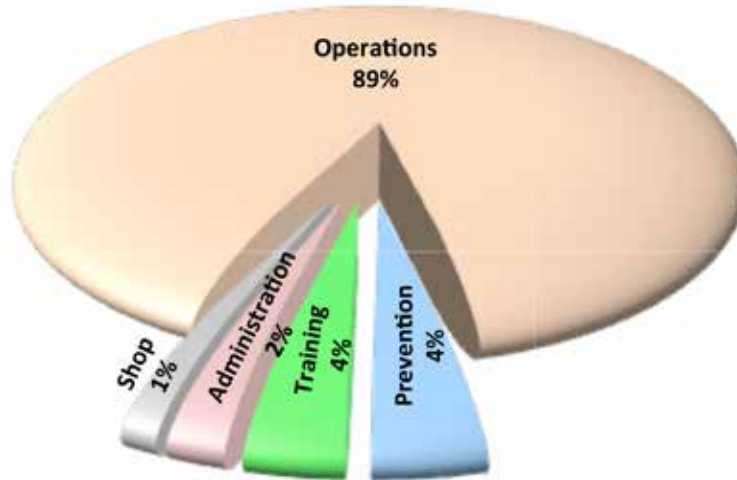


** Alarm Handling is currently unavailable due to the conversion to the new CAD system.

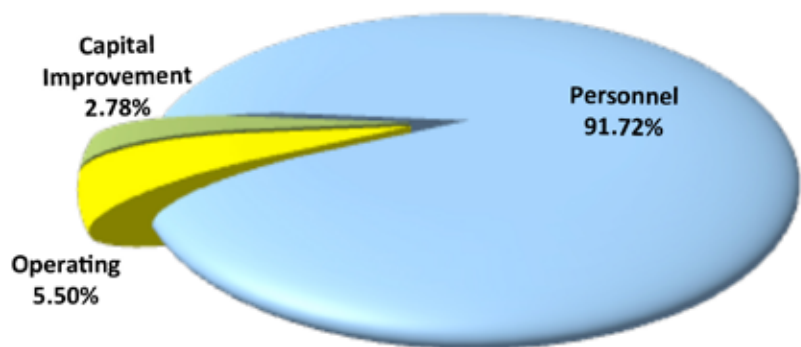


Fiscal Analysis

FY 14-15 Division Breakdowns Adopted Budget \$19,068,716



FY 14-15 Supplies & Services Adopted Budget \$19,068,716

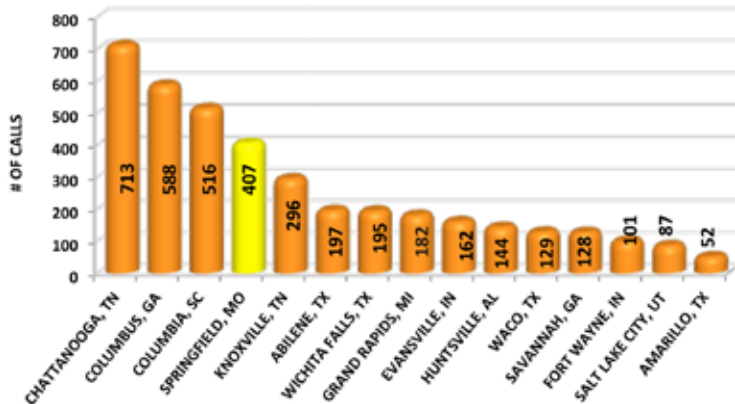


Operating costs include all the firefighting equipment, gear, fuel, hoses, tools, axes, etc. Just over five percent of the entire budget must cover these expenses.



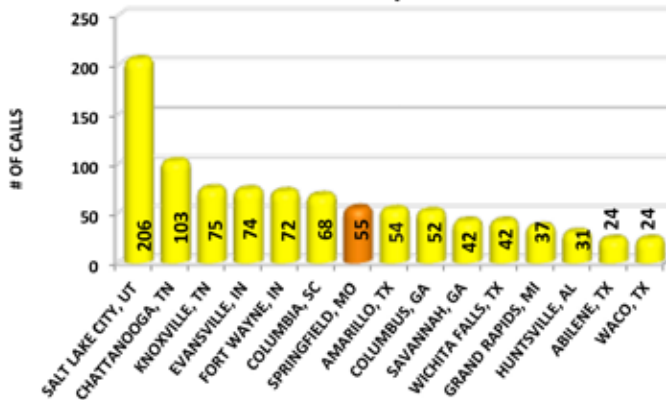
Benchmark City Comparisons

Accidental Fire Call Comparison



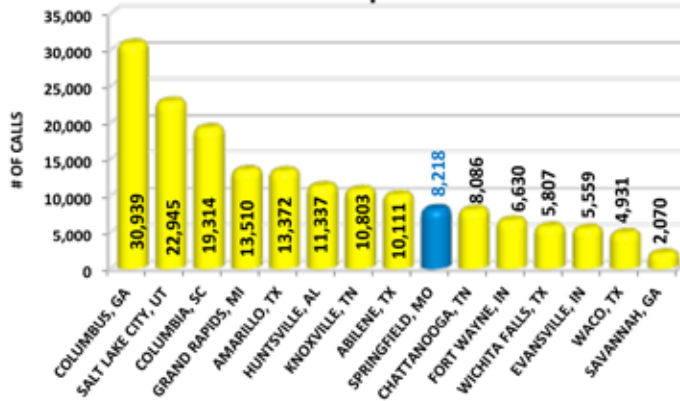
Our number one cause of accidental fires is cooking. Number two is careless smoking in a residence.

Arson Call Comparison



Five Fire Marshals conduct arson investigations for the entire city.

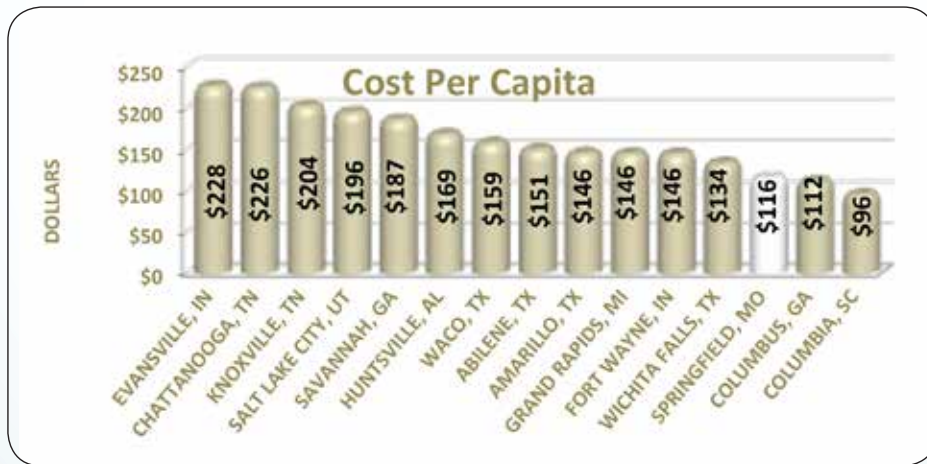
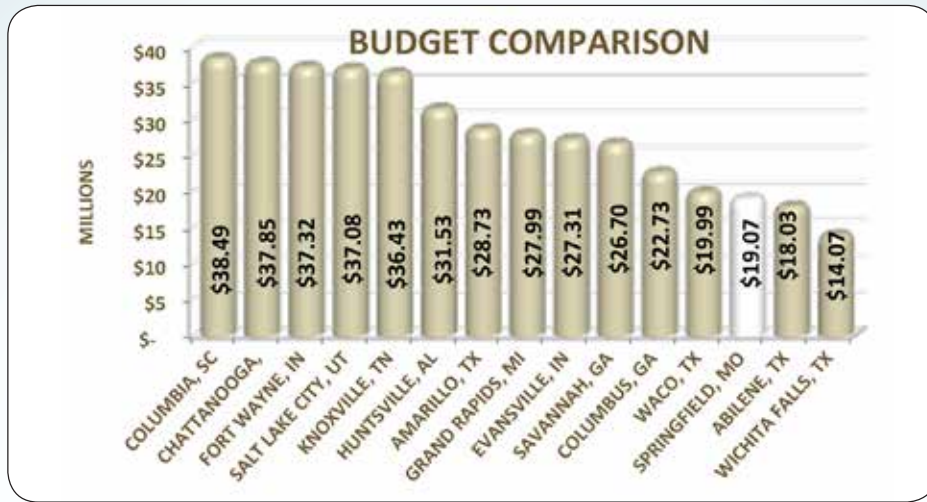
EMS Call Comparison



Springfield Firefighters provide basic life support on all medical calls.



Benchmark City Comparisons



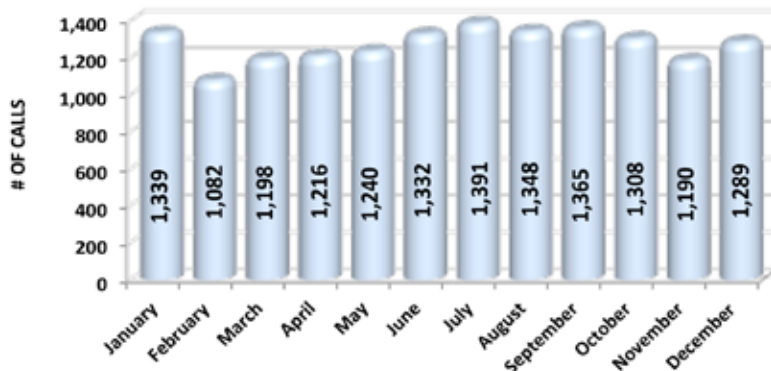
In comparison to other benchmark cities, Springfield is in the lower third in budget and cost per capita.



Calls for Service

At nearly 1,000 fires a year, Springfield Firefighters respond to roughly 2.5 fires a day.

2014 Call Volume by Month

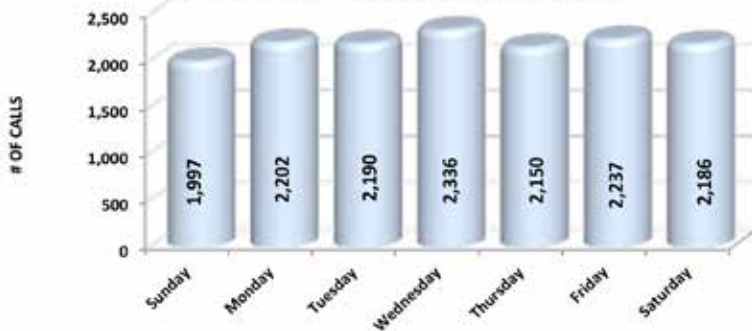


January is one of the highest months for calls due to an increase of heating-related fires.

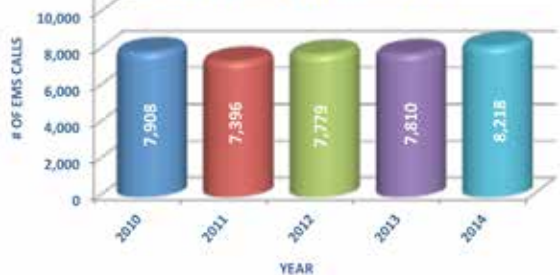
Yearly Fire Comparison



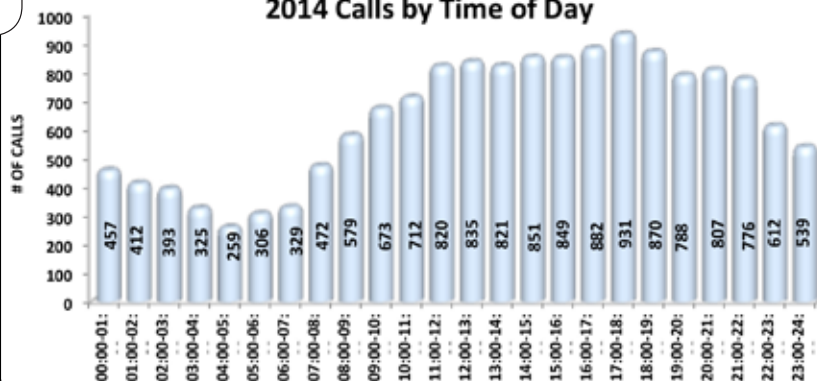
2014 Call Volume by Day of Week



YEARLY EMS COMPARISON



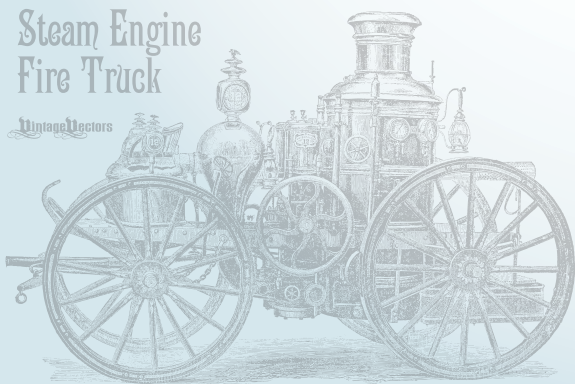
2014 Calls by Time of Day



Most fires occur between the hours of 3 and 9 p.m. when most people are home.

Steam Engine
Fire Truck

Vintage Vectors



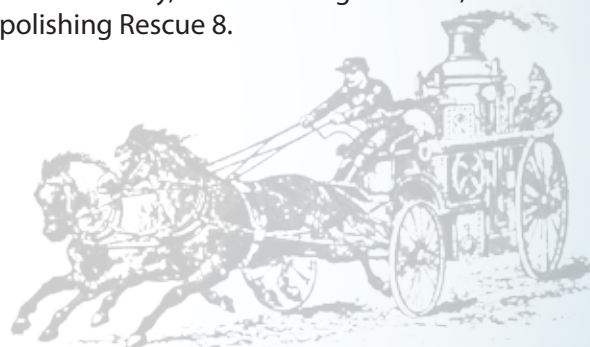
2014 Fire Department Award Recipients

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:

Rescue Specialist Steve Sweaney



Steve's passion and dedication to his craft is inspiring to others. This recognition could easily be for the comeback player of the year. He has gone through many obstacles on his road to this award. He has worked to make himself one of the most educated members of the fire department in disciplines that are often overlooked and underappreciated. Forcible entry and fire ground operations are not glory tasks but are necessary to achieve success and Steve has dedicated himself to achieving a level of mastery that he is then willing to pass on to the rest of the department. He has volunteered his time and skills in many different endeavors this past year. From instructing at the academy, administering flu shots, redesigning high-rise kits to polishing Rescue 8.

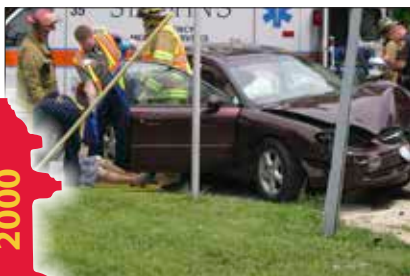


FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:

Captain Jeff Owings



It takes more than one year to grow into an officer that deserves to be nominated for Fire Officer of the Year. It takes years of learning and growth and experience in dealing with problems and people and situations that offer you the opportunity to make good and bad decisions. A person has to have the patience and understanding to know the difference between the two, the foresight to understand consequences and accountability. Jeff Owings has been walking a steady path towards this award for many years. He has managed to call on his experience as a father, a husband, small business owner and military service to become the kind of leader that inspires as well as leads. He has been self-critical and honest with himself when needed and level-headed and decisive when called for. He has worked to place himself in a position of responsibility and accountability rather than merely a seat of authority. Jeff continually exhibits leadership qualities as a servant to the people who work for him rather than a manager of their lives at work.



2014 Fire Department Award Recipients

OUTSTANDING UNIT:

Rescue 1C – Eric Latimer, Lonnie Stockdale, Chris Mann,
Marc Becker, Joe Myers, and Zach Schmidt



Latimer



Stockdale



Mann



Becker



Myers



Schmidt

The Crew of Rescue 1-C has been selected as the outstanding unit this year for their consistent dedication to the job each and every shift. From constant work on technical rescue equipment, interacting with neighborhood children in a pickup basketball game or rescuing a pet dog, they have made a habit of outstanding service this year.

During its annual awards ceremony, more than 50 Springfield firefighters were honored for exemplary achievements during 2014.

Among the honorees was the crew from Engine 8A, who on August 15, 2014 pulled a woman from her burning home and began CPR before she was transported to the hospital. She spent more than six weeks in the hospital prior to a full recovery. The woman attended the awards ceremony and was able to meet the firefighters who saved her life. Engine Operator David Cook and Firefighters Chad Bright and Nick Hartman received Fire Life Save Awards.

Also honored were those first responders who helped extricate a patient involved in a car accident on April 20, 2014. The crews from Rescue 1C, Rescue 1A, Rescue 8A, Engine 5A, Truck 2A, Engine 4A, Air 8A, Battalion Chief Kevin Trogdon, Bruce Pettus with MODOT, Amanda Kahler with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Wrecker Service were awarded for their actions during the three-hour long ordeal that ultimately saved the leg of the trapped patient.





Safe and Sanitary Homes

In recent years, Springfield firefighters have seen an alarming increase in safety issues related to compulsive hoarding and severe squalor. Excessive accumulation of materials in homes poses a significant threat to both those who live in the home and others who may enter the home, including firefighters.

The Springfield Fire Department and Community Partnership of the Ozarks launched the Safe and Sanitary Homes Collaborative with the mission of ensuring the health and safety of all citizens and first responders by educating and empowering the community to address and alleviate hoarding and unsanitary living conditions. Members include representatives from the Fire Department, CPO, the City of Springfield's Environmental Services and Building and Development Services Departments, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Care to Learn, Springfield Public Schools, Missouri Children's Division, Missouri Department of

Health and Senior Services, Burrell Behavioral Health, Council of Churches and the Wooten Company, among others.

In June, the Collaborative was selected to receive \$2,000 from the O'Reilly Family Foundation to fund clean-ups in homes where hoarding and/or severe squalor result in unsafe living conditions.

"Helping those living in severe squalor or suffering from hoarding disorder can be extremely costly," said **Cara Erwin**, Fire and Life Safety Educator for the Springfield Fire Department. "Mitigation may include trash disposal, extermination and even mental health counseling. This generous grant from the O'Reilly Foundation is a great start toward helping those who want help and raising awareness about this serious issue in our community."

Visit safeandsanitaryhomes.org for more information.

2014 Year in Review

Fire Safety is Elementary

During the month of October, Springfield firefighters visited 37 Springfield schools, 406 classrooms and more than 9,000 students to provide fire safety education.

Each child was sent home with a survey asking if the home has a working smoke alarm and if not, if they would like the Fire Department to install one at no charge. The Fire Department received thousands of responses and more than 300 requests for smoke alarm or battery installations.

Students who returned a form were entered into a drawing. Twelve were selected to receive a ride to school in a fire engine.

"While a ride to school in a fire engine is a great incentive, the real goal of this program is to ensure every Springfield student lives in a home with a working smoke alarm," said **Assistant Chief of Prevention Randy Villines**. "Students were taught during Fire Prevention Month what to do if they have a fire in their home. Having a working smoke alarm is the first step to help keep them safe."



or



Fire safety curriculum was customized and updated with sketches and clip art provided by the City's Department of Public Information.



or



Fire Department breathing easier thanks to grant

Springfield Fire Department is breathing a little easier after receiving a \$640,000 grant to replace its self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The grant is thanks to Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and required a 10 percent local match. The federal share was \$575,538 with the City's share at \$63,948.

"This equipment is critical to the safety of our firefighters and to the delivery of our core services, and helps Springfield retain its accreditation and ISO 2 rating," said **Springfield Fire Chief David Hall**.

Federal law requires that SCBA bottles be replaced every 15 years to maintain national standards. The previous supply was purchased in 2000.

2014 Year in Review



Online overcrowding training promotes safety in bars and nightclubs

In September, the Springfield Fire Department launched an online training tool for bar and nightclub owners, managers and staff to reduce overcrowding and other safety hazards associated with nightlife. The training includes a 20-minute presentation, video and exam.

According to Springfield's Fire Code, employees of businesses where people assemble are required to participate in fire safety training annually.

"The video and exam provided by the Springfield Fire Department is the easiest way to ensure that this requirement is met," says Springfield

Assistant Fire Chief of Prevention Randy Villines. "The training is very comprehensive and addresses a lot of concerns we see locally, from overcrowding to common fire hazards."

Nightlife venues are required to present the certificates of completion of the training during their annual inspections conducted by Springfield Fire Marshals.

"It is our goal to prevent Springfield from ever experiencing a tragedy in bar or nightclub similar to what many other communities have experienced," said Chief Villines.

Springfield LifeSave

Springfield is closer to its goal of being the safest city for surviving cardiac arrest. In 2014, 12 Springfield employers, including the City of Springfield, became designated Springfield LifeSave organizations, which means they committed to certifying 50 percent of their workforce or 50 employees in compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator use.

The goals of the LifeSave initiative are to train 45,000 people in compression-only CPR, double the number of AEDs in the community and have 100 businesses and organizations commit to the "50/50 Challenge."

Those who take the "50/50 Challenge" and commit to certifying 50 percent of the workforce or 50 employees are designated a Springfield LifeSave organization. Companies who purchase an AED in addition to getting their employees certified in CPR are designated as a Springfield LifeSave Plus organization.

So far, nearly 7,500 people in Springfield have been trained in compression-only CPR.





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Springfield Fire Department's Mission

*We are the Springfield Fire Department,
a professional organization dedicated
to serving our community.*

Springfield Fire Department Values:

PROFESSIONALISM

INTEGRITY

COMPASSION

SERVICE

VALOR

